

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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-----026563 151830Z /50

P R 151757Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039829

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BELIZE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. MEXICAN AMB MARGAIN CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN FEBRUARY 9 TO REQUEST INFORMATION ON THE
FEBRUARY 2 ANGLO-Guatemalan TALKS. AMB. TODMAN TOLD
HIM PRICE HAD HARDENED HIS POSITION ON TERRITORY AND
OBJECTED TO THE SECURITY PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT
TREATY. THE PARTIES NOW ARE LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE
WAYS IN MEETING SECURITY CONCERNS. AMB. TODMAN
NOTED THAT THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS SINCERELY
WANTED A SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WERE BEST UNDER PRESIDENT
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LAUGERUD. AMU. MARGAIN AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY
DIFFICULT FOR A NEW GUATEMALAN ADMINISTRATION TO
REACH A SETTLEMENT. AMB. TODMAN ASKED MARGAIN TO
SUGGEST THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL PASS ON TO PRICE
THE ASSESSMENT THAT THE CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT
WERE BETTER WITH LAUGERUD.

2. AMB. TODMAN MENTIONED THAT THE BELIZEANS WANTED THE UN RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT BELIZE'S "HISTORICAL 3OUNDARIES," BUT "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" WAS THE LANGUAGE USED. HE NOTED THAT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

ADJUSTMENTS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE DO NOT VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE. AMB. MARGAIN AGREED. HE ALSO SAID THAT MEXICO HAD NO INTENTION OF PURSUING ITS CLAIM TO BELIZE, AND RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A FORMULA THAT WOULD GIVE GUATEMALA A WAY OUT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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